

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A fluid-operable rotary drive clutch (1), comprising drive plates (2), at least one of which is connected rotationally fixedly to an input assembly (3) and at least one other is connected rotationally fixedly to an output assembly (4), operating fluid (11) being conveyed from a first pressure chamber of a piston/cylinder unit (7) through a an axial bore defined by a connecting line (8) provided in a clutch shaft (12) to an additional a second pressure chamber (6), which is sealed by an annular piston (5) of a clutch actuating ring (9) that is axially translatable when pressure is applied to it, a front face of the piston/cylinder unit, facing toward the additional second pressure chamber (6), being acted on by the pressure of the operating fluid (11) to engage or disengage said the rotary drive clutch (1), depending on the function of said the rotary drive clutch (1), and the piston/cylinder unit (7) being connected to the axial bore of the connecting line (8) provided in the clutch shaft (12) rotationally fixedly, pressure-tightly, and co-rotatably with a clutch component the clutch shaft (12) from which the axial bore of connecting line (8) which is provided in the clutch shaft (12) opens into the additional second pressure chamber (6), wherein the piston/cylinder unit (7) is acted on by an external force generator (13) comprising a rotor (14) and a stator (15), said rotor (14) being traversable in an axial direction of the piston/cylinder unit (7) and being one of journaled so that it is able to move rotationally with respect to said stator (15), and coupled to the rotatable piston/cylinder unit (7) via by an axial-force rotating bearing (16).
2. (previously presented) The rotary drive clutch in accordance with claim 1, wherein the axial-force rotating bearing (16) comprises a sliding bearing.
3. (previously presented) The rotary drive clutch in accordance with claim 1, wherein the axial-force rotating bearing (16) comprises a roller bearing.

4. (currently amended) The rotary drive clutch in accordance with claim 1, wherein said the external force generator (13) is comprises a linear motor (17).
5. (previously presented) The rotary drive clutch in accordance with claim 4, wherein said rotor (14) of said linear motor (17) is electrically or magnetoelectrically driven.
6. (currently amended) The rotary drive clutch in accordance with claim 4, wherein said linear motor (17) is drivable via by a servo controller (27).
7. (previously presented) The rotary drive clutch in accordance with claim 4, wherein said linear motor (17) is operated in a closed control circuit with preset operating parameters.
8. (currently amended) The rotary drive clutch in accordance with claim 1, wherein said the piston/cylinder unit (7) is supported axially and immovably by a pair of oppositely disposed angular ball bearings (18).
9. (currently amended) The rotary drive clutch in accordance with claim 1, wherein said the clutch actuating ring (9) is translatable, in its axial direction of movement, opposite the direction of application of pressure, by a counteracting-force generator (20), and serves as a displacing element of a brake (19).
10. (currently amended) The rotary drive clutch in accordance with claim 9, wherein said the counteracting-force generator (20) is elastically biased and comprises springs arranged such that they are tensioned against increasing resilient force as pressure applied by the annular piston (5) to actuate the clutch increases.

11. (currently amended) The rotary drive clutch in accordance with claim 1, wherein the piston/cylinder unit (7) is mounted rotatably in a stationary and self-contained housing (21) and is connected communicably, via by a co-rotating conduit system (22), to a selected one of a clutch chamber and a brake chamber (24).

12. (currently amended) The rotary drive clutch in accordance with claim 11, wherein the co-rotating conduit system (22) is connected via by an annular feed line (25) to a non-co-rotating cooling oil tank (26).